Ordnance Factory at Badmal is planned to be taken up in 1997-98.

(b) Plants for two versions of ammunition have been installed. During commissioning and trial runs of the plants, certain technical problems have been encountered which are being attended to by the suppliers. For the third version, plants are under installation.

[Translation]

Operation Black Board

3425. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of teaching classes conducted in Maharashtra during each of the last three years under 'Operation Black Board';

(b) whether any financial assistance was sought by the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) According to information furnished by Government of Maharashtra, the number of class room constructed under Operation Blackboard Scheme in the State in the last three years is as follows :

Year	Class rooms constructed
1993-94	1374
1994-95	2722
1995-96	2915

(b) to (d). Construction of school buildings is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. Under Operation Blackboard, a formula has been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to provide funds for construction of primary school buildings under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY).

According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment a sum of Rs. 382.81 lakhs have been released to the State Government during 1993-94 under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) for construction of primary school buildings.

[English]

Development of Harbour Project at Panaji

3426. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the Mormugao Port Administration has proposed development of outer harbour project at Panaji;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Mumbai Port Trust has decided to levy charges on Panaji bound vessels through its waters;

(e) if so, whether the Ministry has approved the above charges; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In order to meet the future demand for port services, Mormugao Port administration has proposed development of outer harbour project at Panaji. Mormugao Port Trust has decided to shortlist consulting engineering firms for selection and appointment as consultants for carrying out feasibility studies for outer harbour.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Technical Innovations made by IIT

3427. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the role of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is rendering consultancy services to industries and technical innovations have gone down to considerable extent;

(b) if so, the details of technical innovations made by the senior professors of IIT, Delhi during the last five years Department-wise and also the quantum of money earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). There has been steady increase year after year in consultancy services rendered to the industries and in large number of sponsored research projects undertaken by the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

Treatment to Afghan Soldiers

3428. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether injured soldiers of President Burhenuddin Rabbani's regime in war-torn Afghanistan are being set to India for medical treatment;

(b) whether most of these soldiers are undergoing treatment at private hospitals and nursing homes in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of such injured soldiers getting treatment in India;

(d) whether the expenditure is borne by the Government of India and if so, how much amount, so far, has been borned by the Government; and

(e) whether any agreement in this regard has been arrived at and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) We have no information in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Internet Threatens Copyright Regime

3429. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Internet threatens copyright regime" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi, dated November 9, 1996; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item captioned "Internet threatens copyright regime" in "The Hindustan Times", New Delhi dated November 9, 1996 refers to challenges to copyright protection posed by developments in the field of digital technologies and the Internet. The article refers to the possibilities of copyright piracy because of the use of digitial technologies and to the demand of interested groups in the country that measures be taken to modify the copyright and neighbouring rights appropriately to respond to the new information age.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations Organisation, has convened a Diplomatic Conference in Geneva from December 2 to 20, 1996 to consider new treaties on copyright and neighbouring rights taking into consideration recent developments in the fields of digital technologies and communications. India is participating in the Diplomatic Conference with a view to protecting its national interest. The Government has held extensive consultations with concerned groups on the new treaties. A core group was constituted in the Department of Education with representatives of other Ministeries/Departments, copyright and neighbouring rights organisations, experts on copyrights, academic institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology etc. to consider the proposed treaties. Panel discussions were also held in Delhi and Hyderabad on the proposed treaties. All possible steps are being taken to protect the national interests in this area.

Financial Assistance to Hospitals

3430. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has extended any financial help to any hospital under the Cooperative or other sector in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details with terms and conditions of such financing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Central assistance is extended to the States/Union Territories under various National Programmes as per approved pattern.

[Translation]

Funds for AIDS

3431. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any funds to U.P. for prevention of AIDS during the last three years;

(b) if so, the manner in which those funds have been utilised by the U.P. Government;

(c) the number of AIDS affected persons in U.P. at present, particularly in Khurja Constituency;

(d) the assistance provided by the Union Government to U.P. particularly to Government hospitals in Southern U.P. for prevention of AIDS and the Hospitals, Medical colleges where AIDS detection facility is available; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide this facility to other big hospitals also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The funds released by the Central Government and expenditure incurred by the State Government for Prevention and Control of AIDS